



95TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE (AIRBORNE)

COMMANDER'S STATEMENT

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://news.soc.mil>

Col. Michael J. Warmack

It is with deep regret that I inform you that we have lost two of our senior Non-Commissioned Officers; SFC David Hartman and SFC Matthew Sluss-Tiller. David and Matthew were conducting training on civil affairs operations in Pakistan, with the Frontier Corps, at the invitation of the Pakistani Government. They were in Lower Dir to attend the inauguration ceremony of a school for girls that had recently been renovated with U.S. humanitarian assistance when they were killed by, what is believed to be, a roadside bomb.

Both Matthew and David are heroes in my mind -- they volunteered to come to Army Special Operations and the 95th CA Brigade (Airborne), they both believed in what they were doing, and they were committed to helping people in a place where violence against innocent populations was too often commonplace. In the pursuit of what they believed, they made the ultimate sacrifice.

The incredibly hard work that both Dave and Matt were doing, and that other 96th CA BN women and men continue to do is terribly important and goes to the heart of strengthening the population's ability to live free from the stranglehold of extremism.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both Mrs. Melissa Sluss-Tiller and her daughter Hannah, and to Mrs. Cherise Hartman and her son Michael. As a brigade family, we will rally around both families and do everything that we can to help them through this great loss and this difficult time. I thank everyone for their generosity and their giving spirit that is always evident within the 96th CA BN (A) and across this brigade.

As we always do, we will persevere despite our grief, strongly unite, and execute superbly in the midst of this tragedy.

February 5, 2010

- ADVISE, SUPPORT, STABILIZE -